

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 8, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14, and 15 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 15 are in independent form. Claims 3, 8, and 13 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be addressed further. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14, and 15 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope; that Claims 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action, and to include all the limitations of their respective base claim. Claims 9 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form so as not to depend from a rejected claim. Accordingly, Claims 9 and 10 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 6, the base claim of canceled Claim 8, has been rewritten to include the allowable features of Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 6 is now in condition for allowance. The allowable features of canceled Claim 13 has been incorporated into base Claim 11, which has also been amended, among other things, to overcome the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection discussed below. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 11 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 14 and 15 have been rewritten to overcome the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection and to include features substantially along the lines of those of their base claim, original Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 14 and 15 are also in condition for allowance.

The Office Action states that the title of the invention is not descriptive. The title has been amended to recite substantially the Examiner's suggestion at page 2 of the Office Action:

--REDUCING A DIFFERENCE IN PICTURE QUALITY BETWEEN
DETERIORATED AND NON-DETERIORATED IMAGES USING A PRINTING
APPARATUS--.

Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the title has been obviated, and respectfully requests its withdrawal.

The Office Action objected to the specification on the grounds noted at pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

Applicant has amended the Field of the Invention section of the specification to more clearly describe the field of art to which the present invention pertains.

Applicant has also amended page 11, line 14, of the specification in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Applicant submits that the objections to the specification have been obviated, and respectfully requests their withdrawal.

The Office Action objected to the drawings for the reasons given at pages 3 and 4.

Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended Fig 1, 2, and 9 to overcome the noted objections. It is believed that the objections to these figures have been remedied, and their withdrawal are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 12, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

These claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Specifically, Claim 11 has been amended to be directed to a computer readable storage medium for storing a program. Claims 12, 14, and 15 have been amended similarly, and references to a "step" have been amended to read --code for a step--. It is believed that the rejections under Section 112, second paragraph, have been obviated, and their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,835,122 (*Oki et al.*).

For the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that independent Claims 6 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that this amended independent claim, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a printing apparatus. The apparatus includes a discrimination unit, a processing unit, and a printing unit. The discriminating unit discriminates whether or not an image includes a deteriorated image. The processing unit renders, if the discriminating unit discriminates that the image includes a deteriorated image, the image based on the deteriorated image and a non-

deteriorated image included in the image, compresses the rendered image causing deterioration to the rendered image, and saves the compressed image. The printing unit is for printing the image processed by the processing unit.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 is that the processing unit (a) renders, if the discriminating unit discriminates that the image includes a deteriorated image, the image based on the deteriorated image and a non-deteriorated image included in the image, (b) compresses the rendered image causing deterioration to the rendered image, and (c) saves the compressed image.

Oki et al. relates to an image processing apparatus which converts a printer command input by a host computer into intermediate code (a display list) that is specifically for printers, and which develops the intermediate code into a bit map for each specific band or for each page. The display list is formed with a decreased resolution when memory space is insufficient or when drawing time is longer than the output time.

Applicant has found nothing in *Oki et al.* that would teach or suggest a processing unit (a) rendering, if the discriminating unit discriminates that the image includes a deteriorated image, the image based on the deteriorated image and a non-deteriorated image included in the image, (b) compressing the rendered image causing deterioration to the rendered image, and (c) saving the compressed image, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the above reason, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Oki et al.*

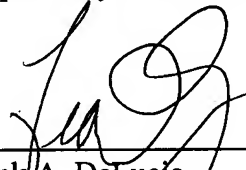
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the

same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank A. DeLuca', is written over a horizontal line.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached herewith are three (3) corrected drawing sheets to be substituted for the corresponding drawing sheets presently on file in the above-identified application. The attached replacement drawing sheets include the changes to Figures 1, 2, and 9. The replacement drawing sheets incorporate the changes required in reply to the Office Action dated October 8, 2004, and is not believed to add new matter to the original disclosure. More specifically, the changes are as follows:

In Fig. 1, Box 1001 now includes the legend, "Printer Control Unit", and Box 1000 now includes the legend "Laser Beam Printer (LBP);

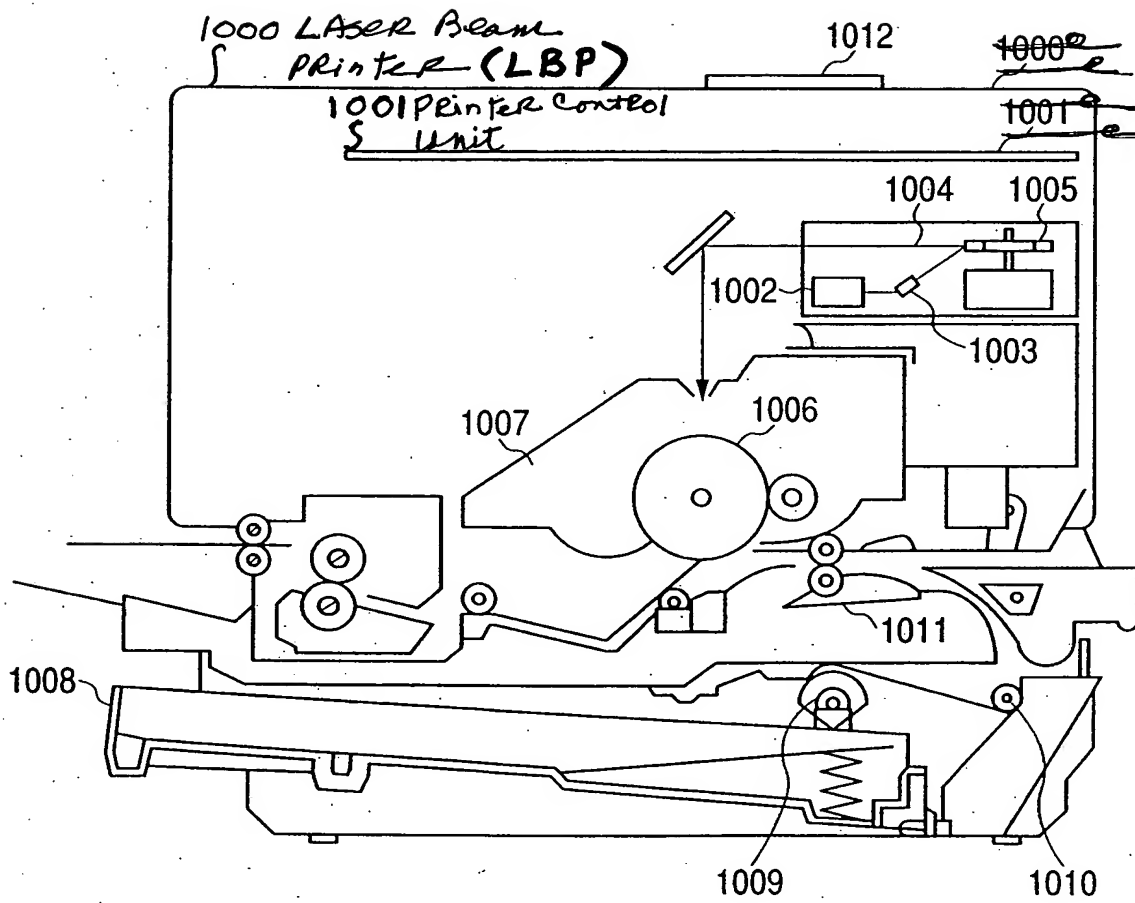
In Fig. 2, Box 5 now includes the legend "System Bus"; and

Fig. 9 has been labeled "PRIOR ART".

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

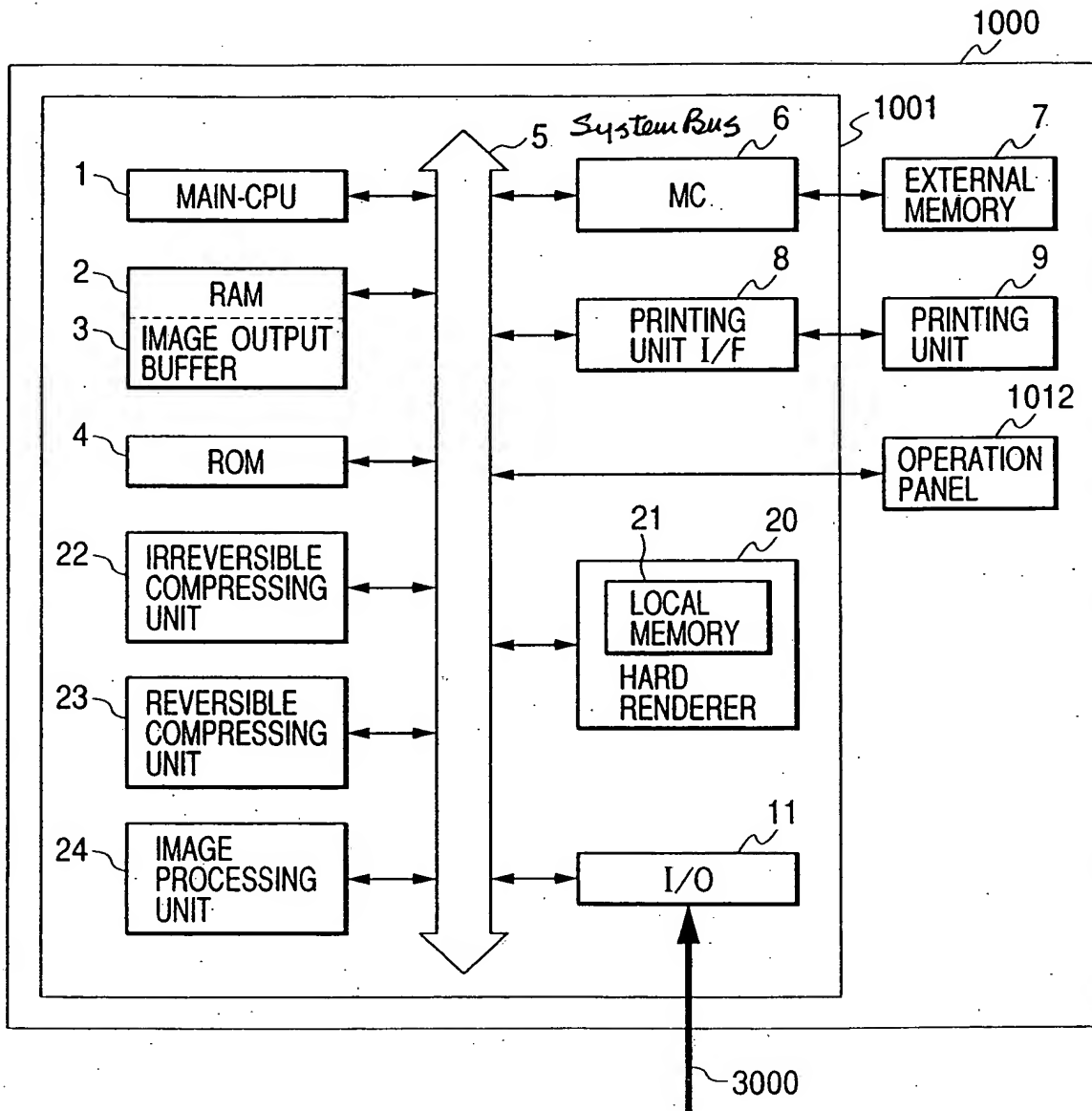
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

FIG. 1



2 / 9

FIG. 2



9/9

PRIOR ART
FIG. 9

